

Comments

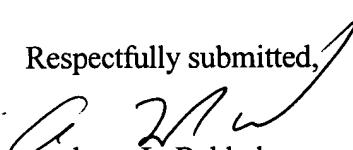
The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-13 and 15-23 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,335,727 to Cornette, et al. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4 and all intervening claims. Claims 5, 7 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 14 and claims 10-13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 9. Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 24 and claims 16-20, 22, 23 and 25 depend directly or indirectly from claim 15. In view of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 5, 7-13, 15-20, 22, 23, and 25 should be allowed. The Examiner has indicated that such claims would be allowable.

In addition, new claims 26-30 should likewise be allowed. Claim 26 includes limitations not disclosed by Cornette or any other art cited by the Examiner and as such should be allowed.

Conclusion

Accordingly, and for the reasons set forth herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1, 5, 7-13, 15-20, 22, 23, 25 and 26-30 along with an early indication of the allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


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